

today is: "Even though I don't agree you, I swear to protect your freedom of speech."

Out of that spirit, political leaders such as President Chen and Vice President Lu, even though they previously suffered as political prisoners, hold no grudges or hatred. Likewise, some people might think that a person like me confined to a wheelchair should be angry about the past. But, on the contrary, we are all filled with joy at Taiwan's democratic achievements. In fact, because of our opportunity to help bring about Taiwan's democracy, the little sacrifice we made became a reward in itself.

Many political scientists wonder why Taiwan was able to experience the democratic process more peacefully and smoothly than many other countries in the "third wave" democratization. I think the main reason is that the current political leaders have the magnanimity to sow the seeds of love in the place of hatred.

People in Taiwan believe in the universal values of freedom, democracy, and human rights. Taiwan's security is more enhanced than before as a result of its progress in democratization. It is also for the same reason that we have so many good friends in the United States of America. And not only here, but also in other democracies; for example, the European Parliament recently passed a resolution expressing strong support for Taiwan. The beautiful smile of democracy is indeed the best protector of Taiwan's security. A basic mission of Taiwan's democratic government is to handle cross-strait issues with a responsible attitude as well as to participate in international affairs in ever more positive ways.

A year ago, the American people suffered the terrible attacks of September 11. The Taiwan people felt the same shock and sadness. Since this tragedy, Taiwan has tried hard to cooperate with the United States and the International community to play an active role, for example through exchanges of anti-terrorism intelligence and efforts to counter money laundering. Taiwan's government has also cooperated intensively with nongovernmental organizations to provide humanitarian assistance to the innocent people of Afghanistan, to cultivate love and hope in the devastated Afghan mountains. We will continue to work with the international community to help Afghanistan and enable the Afghan people to put disaster behind them and rebuild their sense of hope.

On the anniversary of September 11, the Taiwanese people continued to feel sorrow for the attacks. Two weeks ago, President Chen called together all our top government officials to review Taiwan's actions in combating terrorism. He also delivered an anti-terrorism declaration reaffirming his support to the American-led global coalition against terrorism.

Taiwan is a true friend of America. We stand with America now and we will stand with America forever!

Although my husband is not able to visit you this time, I bring his greetings to you. It will be my pleasure to bring your goodwill back to President Chen, to the government and to the people of Taiwan.

Thank you, my dear friends. Thank you!

VISIT OF PRESIDENT LEO FALCAM OF THE FSM

HON. DIANE E. WATSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 1, 2002

Ms. WATSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to highlight the visit of The Honor-

able Leo Falcam, President of the Federated States of Micronesia.

This year marks the 57th year of the United States presence in the territory of what are now called the Freely Associated States or FAS. The U.S. took possession of many of the islands comprising the modern FAS during WWII and has exercised various forms of political oversight since that time. On July 18, 1947, the U.S. Government began to administer to the FAS as a United Nations Mandated Strategic Trust known as the United Nations Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands. The charge to the United States from the United Nations went well beyond administering the Trust Territory Article Two. Article Six of the Trusteeship Agreement added four specific tasks to the U.S. mission: "The administering authority shall promote (1) . . . the development toward self-government or independence . . . (2) the economic advancement and self sufficiency . . . (3) . . . the social advancement . . . and (4) . . . the educational advancement of the inhabitants."

Mr. Speaker, as the former Ambassador to the Federated States of Micronesia, I was charged by President Clinton to uphold our Compact of Free Association and represent the United States. The FSM became freely associated with the U.S. in 1986. The Compact Agreement is currently being renegotiated, and a new Compact Agreement is imminent. The goal of the new Compact is to provide the FSM with the funding and tools to become an economically independent and viable democratic nation.

Chuuk, Kosrae, Pohnpei and Yap are the four states that comprise the FSM. They are located in an area called the Western Pacific, just north of the Equator. Spread across more than a million miles of ocean, the island states are made of 607 islands, but only 65 are inhabited. The total land area of the islands is 271 square miles, with Pohnpei having about half that land area and the rest equally divided among the three states. The FSM's estimated population is just over 100,000 people.

The seat of the FSM government resides in Palikir on the island of Pohnpei. Mr. Speaker, today I have had the distinct honor, along with several of my distinguished colleagues, to meet with the President of the Federated States of Micronesia, the Honorable Leo Falcam.

Mr. Speaker, President Falcam has served the FSM with distinction his whole life. President Falcam served at the highest levels during the Trust Territory days up until now. He has played a key role in the island nation's struggle for self-determination. He was formerly the Governor of Pohnpei, Member of Congress, and now the President.

Mr. Speaker, I especially want to note that the Federated States of Micronesia has always been a loyal friend and staunch supporter of the United States. This bond of friendship is demonstrated by the fact that the FSM has been one of the United States' most reliable friends in the United Nations as well as other international fora.

I also want to note that a number of citizens of the FSM currently serve in the U.S. military and that President Falcam's son is a Marine Lt. Commander, currently stationed in Okinawa—a fact of which I know President Falcam is particularly proud.

Mr. Speaker, a new compact is currently being negotiated by the United States and the

FSM. It is my understanding that many of the issues have been resolved and that a new Compact is close to being approved by both sides. While a number of important issues remain to be resolved—such as the level of funding and decrements and future commitments of FEMA—I am confident that a new Compact will be approved by the Congress and signed by the President in the next year that allows the Federated States of Micronesia to realize their long-term goals of economic and political self-sufficiency.

WELCOMING QUEEN SIRIKIT OF THAILAND TO THE UNITED STATES

HON. DANA ROHRBACHER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 1, 2002

Mr. ROHRBACHER. Mr. Speaker, it is with great honor that I rise to welcome the visit of a great friend of our country and our sacred principles of liberty and democracy, Her Majesty, Queen Sirikit of Thailand. Queen Sirikit will arrive in Washington on October 4 to begin a two week visit. Her Majesty will also travel to New York to further her charitable activities. And in Houston, Her Majesty will be presented with the University of Texas M.D. Anderson Cancer Center Award for Humanitarian Service, recognizing her lifelong dedication, not only for improving the health and well being of the people of Thailand, but for her international leadership in health and the environment.

I have long admired the Queen and her distinguished husband, His Majesty, King Bhumibol, who has led Thailand to a half century of peace and prosperity. Our long, constructive relationship with the government and people of Thailand dates back to the Presidency of Andrew Jackson whose administration, in 1833, negotiated and signed the Treaty of Amity and Commerce. This treaty was the first of its kind that our young Republic had signed with any Asian nation. It ushered in a 169 year period of mutually beneficial economic, cultural and security relations.

Thailand is one of only five Asian countries with whom we have finalized a bilateral security agreement. Each year the armed forces of Thailand join with our own military to stage "Cobra Gold" maneuvers, the largest such operations involving U.S. forces in the Asian continent. And, economically, United States, remains the primary destiny for Thailand's exports, while Thailand itself ranks as high as 22nd largest market for U.S. exports. On all levels, led by the Royal Family, Thailand can clearly be considered our friend.

Queen Sirikit has worked tirelessly to improve the lives of those disadvantaged in society, be they in Thailand or elsewhere. For the past 46 years, Queen Sirikit has served as the President of the Thai Red Cross Society. In this role, her Majesty has been the leading protector of thousands of refugees who have fled turmoil and tragedy in neighboring countries. Her Majesty has paid similar close attention to her own people. To increase the income of the country's rural families, Her Majesty has initiated many projects, such as the Foundation for the Promotion of Supplementary Occupations and Techniques, better